1/2-inch to 15/8-inch (3.8-cm to 4.1-cm) heat-set and depth-stretched polyethylene webbing and an outer layer constructed of no larger than 2-inch (5.1-cm) square mesh webbing (1-inch bar). The inner webbing layer must be rectangular in shape, 36 meshes on the leading edge by 20 meshes deep. The 36-mesh leading edges of the polyethylene webbing should be sewn evenly to 24 meshes of the extension webbing 1½ meshes from and parallel to the leading edge of the extension starting 12 meshes up from the bottom center on each side. Alternately sew 2 meshes of the polyethylene webbing to 1 mesh of the extension webbing then 1 mesh of the polyethylene webbing to 1 mesh of the extension webbing toward the top. The bottom 20-mesh edges of the polyethylene layers are sewn evenly to the extension webbing on a 2 bar 1 mesh angle toward the bottom back center forming a v-shape in the bottom of the extension webbing. The top 20-mesh edges of the polyethylene layers are sewn evenly along the bars of the extension webbing toward the top back center. The square mesh layers must be rectangular in shape and constructed of no larger than 2-inch (5.1-cm) webbing that is 18 inches (45.7 cm) in length on the leading edge. The depth of the square mesh layer must be no more than 2 inches (5.1 cm) less than the 20 mesh side of the inner polyethylene layer when stretched taught. The 18-inch (45.7-cm) leading edge of each square mesh layer must be sewn evenly to the 36-mesh leading edge of the polyethylene section and the sides are sewn evenly (in length) to the 20-mesh edges of the polyethylene webbing. This will form a v-shape funnel using the top of the extension webbing as the top of the funnel and the bottom of the extension webbing as the bottom of the funnel.

(c) *Cutting the escape opening.* There are two escape openings on each side of the funnel. The leading edge of the escape openings must be located on the same row of meshes in the extension webbing as the leading edge of the composite panels. The lower openings are formed by starting at the first attachment point of the composite panels and cutting 9 meshes in the extension webbing on an even row of meshes toward the top of the extension. Next, turn 90 degrees and cut 15 points on an even row toward the back of the extension webbing. At this point turn and cut 18 bars toward the bottom front of the extension webbing. Finish the escape opening by cutting 6 points toward the original starting point. The top escape openings start 5 meshes above and mirror the lower openings. Starting at the leading edge of the composite panel and 5 meshes above the lower escape opening, cut 9 meshes in the extension on an even row of meshes toward the top of the extension. Next, turn 90 degrees, and cut 6 points on an even row toward the back of the extension webbing. Then cut 18 bars toward the bottom back of the extension. To complete the escape opening, cut 15 points forward toward the original starting point. The area of each escape opening must total at least 212 in^2 (1,368 cm^2). The four escape openings must be double selvaged for strength.

(d) *SMP.* The SMP is constructed from a single piece of square mesh webbing with a minimum dimension of 5 squares wide and 12 squares in length with a minimum mesh size of 3-inch (76-mm) stretched mesh. The maximum twine diameter of the square mesh is number 96 twine (4 mm).

(e) *Cutting the SMP escape opening.* The escape opening is a rectangular hole cut in the top center of the cod end webbing. The posterior edge of the escape opening must be placed no farther forward that 8 ft (2.4 m) from the cod end drawstring (tie-off rings). The width of the escape opening, as measured across the cod end, must be four cod end meshes per square of the SMP (*i.e.*, a cut of 20 cod end meshes for a SMP that is 5 meshes wide). The stretched mesh length of the escape opening must be equal to the total length of the SMP. No portion of the SMP escape opening may be covered with additional material or netting such as chaffing webbing, which might impede or prevent fish escapement.

(f) *Installation of the SMP.* The SMP must be attached to the edge of the escape opening evenly around the perimeter of the escape opening cut with heavy twine.

NOTE: The ''Bycatch Reduction Device Testing Manual'' is published, excluding the Manual's appendices, as an appendix to this document. See the contact under **ADDRESSES** to obtain a complete Manual.

[62 FR 18539, Apr. 16, 1997, as amended at 64 FR 37694, July 13, 1999; 73 FR 8224, Feb. 13, 2008; 73 FR 68361, Nov. 18, 2008; 75 FR 28761, May 24, 2010; 77 FR 21681, Apr. 11, 2012]

APPENDIX E TO PART 622—CARIBBEAN ISLAND/ISLAND GROUP MANAGEMENT AREAS

Table 1 of Appendix E to Part 622—*Coordinates of the Puerto Rico Management Area.*

The Puerto Rico management area is bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following points.

Point	North lat.	West long.
A (intersects with the International/EEZ boundary)	19°37′29″	65°20′57″
B (intersects with the EEZ/Territorial boundary)	18°25′46.3015″	65°06′31.866″

Point	North lat.	West long.
From Point B, proceed southerly along the EEZ/Territorial boundary to Point C		
C (intersects with the EEZ/Territorial boundary)	18°13′59.0606″	65°05′33.058″
D	18°01′16.9636″	64°57′38.817″
E	17°30′00.000″	65°20′00.1716″
F	16°02′53.5812″	65°20′00.1716″
From Point F, proceed southwesterly, then northerly, then easterly, and finally southerly along the International/EEZ boundary to Point A		
A (intersects with the International/EEZ boundary)	19°37′29″	65°20′57″

Table 2 of Appendix E to Part 622—*Coordinates of the St. Croix Management Area.*

The St. Croix management area is bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following points.

Point	North lat.	West long.
G	18°03′03″	64°38′03″
From Point G, proceed easterly, then southerly, then southwesterly along the EEZ/Territorial boundary to Point F		
F	16°02′53.5812″	65°20′00.1716″
E	17°30′00.000″	65°20′00.1716″
D	18°01′16.9636″	64°57′38.817″
G	18°03′03″	64°38′03″

Table 3 of Appendix E to Part 622—*Coordinates of the St. Thomas/St. John Management Area.*

The St. Thomas/St. John management area is bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following points.

Point	North lat.	West long.
A (intersects with the International/EEZ boundary)	19°37′29″	65°20′57″
From Point A, proceed southeasterly along the EEZ/Territorial boundary to Point G		
G	18°03′03″	64°38′03″
D	18°01′16.9636″	64°57′38.817″
C (intersects with the EEZ/Territorial boundary)	18°13′59.0606″	65°05′33.058″
From Point C, proceed northerly along the EEZ/Territorial boundary to Point B		
B (intersects with the EEZ/Territorial boundary)	18°25′46.3015″	65°06′31.866″
A (intersects with the International/EEZ boundary)	19°37′29″	65°20′57″

[76 FR 82411, Dec. 30, 2011]

APPENDIX F TO PART 622—SPECIFICATIONS FOR SEA TURTLE MITIGATION GEAR AND SEA TURTLE HANDLING AND RELEASE REQUIREMENTS

A. *Sea turtle mitigation gear.*

1. *Long-handled line clipper or cutter.* Line cutters are intended to cut high test monofilament line as close as possible to the hook, and assist in removing line from entangled sea turtles to minimize any remaining gear upon release. NMFS has established minimum design standards for the line cutters. The LaForce line cutter and the Arceneaux line clipper are models that meet these minimum design standards, and may be purchased or fabricated from readily available and low-cost materials. One long-handled line clipper or cutter and a set of replacement blades are required to be onboard. The minimum design standards for line cutters are as follows:

(a) *A protected and secured cutting blade.* The cutting blade(s) must be capable of cutting 2.0–2.1 mm (0.078 in.–0.083 in.) monofilament line (400-lb test) or polypropylene multistrand material, known as braided or tarred mainline, and must be maintained in working order. The cutting blade must be curved, recessed, contained in a holder, or otherwise designed to facilitate its safe use so that direct contact between the cutting surface and the sea turtle or the user is prevented. The cutting instrument must be securely attached to an extended reach handle and be easily replaceable. One extra set of replacement blades meeting these standards must also be carried on board to replace all cutting surfaces on the line cutter or clipper.